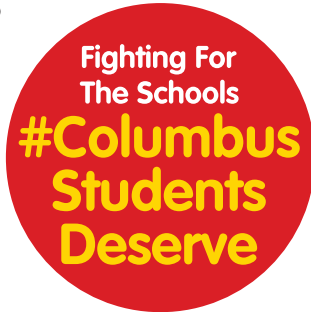


## Mass Membership Meeting Scheduled

CEA will be holding a Mass Membership Meeting on Tuesday, May 28, at the Ohio Expo Center & State Fair Celeste Center (717 E. 17th Ave). Registration will begin at 4:30 p.m. with the meeting starting promptly at 6 p.m. Your Union is asking all members to wear **red** for the schools **#ColumbusStudentsDeserve**.



You will need a photo ID to enter. Your school ID or driver's license are acceptable forms of identification. CEA will cover the cost of parking, however, it is \$5 per car so please plan to carpool if possible so we can keep our costs down. The purpose of this meeting is to inform members of the progress of bargaining prior to the beginning of summer break.

## Better Hearing & Speech Month

May is Better Hearing & Speech Month. It's the time when we say thanks to the district's speech language pathologists and audiologists. Our pathologists, often referred to as SLPs, evaluate and treat communication disorders in children ages 3 to 21, helping them with spoken speech sounds, understanding and using words, and improving fluency and voice use in regular and special education settings.



More than 3,000 students are in the district's speech-language program. Many of them are dealing with complex syndromes such as autism and learning or cognitive disabilities. Audiologists evaluate and monitor the hearing of all CCS students, from birth to age 22. They screen students and refer them for other professional attention when appropriate. Being able to hear in the classroom is essential since children spend at least 45 percent of the school day in listening activities. Thank your building's SLP and our audiologists for their dedication and service to our students.

## Dependent Eligibility Benefit Audit Starting

CCS has a self-funded insurance plan. In this type of insurance plan, claims are paid from the money collected for members' insurance benefits. Your Union and the District work collaboratively to preserve the benefits we offer to our bargaining unit members and their dependents under our healthcare plans. All bargaining unit members who have a dependent enrolled in the District's plans will be required to verify their dependents' eligibility. On Friday, May 3, bargaining unit members with dependents received an email from the District about the audit, detailing the required documentation necessary to verify dependent eligibility. Bargaining unit members should

have received a hard-copy letter mailed to their home address with detailed instructions on what is needed to complete the requirements of the program by the due date. Bargaining unit members who are enrolled in our health-care plans but do not have dependents enrolled are not required to complete this process.

In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact the CCS Benefits Team via email at [benefitquestions@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:benefitquestions@columbus.k12.oh.us).

## OEA Applauds Legislation to Address Over-Testing

*(Reprinted from the OEA Legislative Watch)*

OEA members are greatly concerned about the amount of testing that Ohio's students must endure. Excessive testing has led to a loss of instructional time in the classroom and lost educational opportunities for students. OEA has been urging



state lawmakers to do more to address this issue and, with the introduction of new legislation this week, it's clear that legislators are listening.

On Wednesday, May 8, 2019, the Testing Reduction Act (HB 239) was introduced in the Ohio House. The bill, sponsored by Representatives Gayle Manning (R-North Ridgeville) and Erica Crawley (D-Columbus), is bipartisan legislation that makes important changes to Ohio law to reduce state-required testing and bring together teachers, parents and administrators in each school district to take steps to further reduce the testing load on students. OEA strongly supports this legislation.

Specifically, HB 239 would make the following changes:

- Reduce state-mandated standardized tests to the federal minimums by eliminating four high school end-of-course exams. (Geometry, ELA I, American History, American Government)
- Require school districts to convene a local work group made up of teachers, parents and administrators to examine district-required testing and make recommendations for ways to reduce the amount of time spent by students on testing.
- Alter the existing provision that allows local boards of education to pass a resolution to exceed testing limits by requiring such action be taken on an annual basis and reported to the Ohio Department of Education (ODE).
- Require that ODE issue an annual report on the time spent on state- and district-required testing in Ohio's schools.
- Provide that the state continues to offer a paid administration of the ACT/SAT for high school juniors, but student participation would be voluntary. OEA will continue to keep members updated on this important bill.

**There are 98 days left until the current CEA Master Agreement expires.**

## Ohio House Votes to Repeal State Takeovers

On May 1, 2019, the Ohio House of Representatives voted 83–12 in favor of HB 154 (Jones-R/J.Miller-D), which would repeal state-mandated Academic Distress Commissions and restore control of local school districts to elected school boards.

The current state takeover law (HB 70 – 131st General Assembly) provides no citizen oversight through elected school boards, no voice for classroom teachers and has been bad for our kids.

“The OEA has always believed that silencing the voices of educators and local officials in determining the best ways to improve student performance was ill-conceived,” said OEA President Becky Higgins. “Educators want to be able to advocate for their students and we are very pleased that House lawmakers have taken the first step toward replacing the current law. We look forward to working with Senate members to complete this important task.”

State government has already taken away local control from Youngstown, Lorain and East Cleveland schools. In the next two years, if current law is not changed, state government could take away local control from Dayton, Columbus, Canton, Mansfield, Lima, Toledo, Ashtabula, Euclid, North College Hill and Painesville schools.

HB 154, which has strong bi-partisan support, also includes accountability measures that require school districts that have an F-rated building to set up school improvement teams.

## Evaluation Appeals

The Joint Evaluation Panel has approved an Appeals Process for the following:

- Educators that have an overall Final Summative Rating of “Ineffective”
- Educators that have an “Ineffective” performance rating
- Two evaluators and the overall rating is questionable
- The evaluation contains a procedural error

The Evaluation Appeal Form will be available on the ILEAD website beginning Friday, May 10. To file an appeal, submit the completed form, along with appropriate documentation, to Teri Mullins at CEA no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, May 24. Your Association strongly recommends hand delivering this extremely important paperwork. The Joint Evaluation Panel will review appeals the first week after school ends. Educators and evaluators will both be notified of the appeal outcome.

## LA Attendance

One of the many duties of Faculty Representatives is to attend the CEA Legislative Assembly (LA). Held on the first Thursday of nearly every month of the school year, the LA is the policy-making body of your Association. Your elected Faculty Representatives receive vital updates from CEA officers and staff and vote on important issues affecting your Association and its members. Any CEA member is welcome to attend. The following is a list of buildings/units that were represented on Thursday, May 2:

17th Avenue Service Center, Alpine ES, Art, Avalon ES, Avondale ES, Beechcroft HS, Berwick PreK–8, Buckeye MS, Burroughs ES, CAHS, Cassady ES, CEA, Cedarwood ES, Centennial HS, Champion MS, Clinton ES, Colerain ES, Columbus City Prep. School for Boys, Columbus Gifted Academy, Columbus Global Acad. 6–12@Brookhaven, Columbus North International HS 7–12, Como ES, Cranbrook ES, Devonshire ES, Eakin ES, East HS, East Linden

ES, Eastmoor Acad. HS, École Kenwood K–6, Fairwood K–6, Forest Park ES, Ft. Hayes Arts & Academic HS, Gables ES, Georgian Heights ES, Gifted & Talented, Highland ES, Hubbard Mastery School PreK–6, Huy ES/A.G. Bell Program, Independence HS, Indian Springs ES, Indianola Informal K–8, Innis ES, Johnson Park MS, Leawood ES, Lincoln Park K–6, Lindbergh ES, Linden STEM Acad. PreK–6, Maize ES, Marion-Franklin HS, Medina MS, Mifflin HS, Mifflin MS, Music, Northgate Intermediate ES, Northland HS, Northtowne ES, Nurses, Oakmont ES, Olde Orchard ES, OT/PT, Parkmoor ES, Parsons K–6, Phys. Ed., Psychologists, Ridgeview MS, School Counselors, Scottwood ES, Sherwood MS, South HS 7–12, Southwood K–6, Special Ed. Coordinators, Special Needs Preschool@Linmoor, Speech & Language, Tutors, Valley Forge ES, Watkins ES, Wedgewood MS, Weinland Park ES, West Broad ES, West HS, West Mound ES, Westmoor MS, Whetstone HS, Winterset ES, Woodcrest ES, Woodward Park MS, and Yorktown MS.

## CEA Awards and Retirement Banquet

The 43rd Annual CEA Awards and Retirement Banquet is quickly approaching. The banquet will take place on Friday, May 17, at the Hyatt Regency Columbus. Social hour will begin at 6 p.m. with the dinner starting at 7 p.m. If you are retiring and have not responded to attend the dinner, *RSVP* soon. Retirees and Senior Faculty Representatives are invited to attend this wonderful event at no cost. Additional tickets are \$35 per person or a table of eight for \$280. If you are retiring and have not received any information, call the CEA office at (614) 253-4731 and ask for Kathy Wilkes. You can also email her at [kwilkes@ceaohio.org](mailto:kwilkes@ceaohio.org).

## Memorial Day is a Paid Holiday

Section 1501.03 of our contract provides for certain paid holidays throughout the school year, including Memorial Day. However, pay for holidays is not a given. Members who are not in a “paid” status the day immediately preceding Memorial Day and the day immediately following Memorial Day will not receive holiday pay. If you are absent and you are not on paid sick leave or personal leave, you will forfeit the pay for this paid holiday.

## Autumn Fee Waiver Applications Open

The Autumn 2019 Fee Waiver online applications are now open. Bargaining unit members can access the online application from home or work using their CCS email username and password. The online form will automatically send applicants a confirmation email once their application is submitted. Instructions on how to complete the online application can be found at <http://bit.ly/2jhWSjd>. The Autumn 2019 Fee Waiver application period will close at 11:59 p.m. on Monday, May 20. If you have Priority 1 or Priority 2 status, please be sure to upload the proper documentation with your online application. Documentation is required with each fee waiver process. Your Priority status will change without the proper documentation. Please contact Leslie Butler at [lbutler@columbus.k12.oh.us](mailto:lbutler@columbus.k12.oh.us) if you have any questions.

## Special Note

❑ Come and celebrate the retirement of **Shawn Webb** at **Planks on High St.** in German Village on **May 30**. The festivities **begin at 3 p.m.** After 32 years of teaching, he has decided to enjoy the good life. Everyone is welcome to come.